

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6650

BILL NUMBER: SB 279

DATE PREPARED: Dec 7, 2001

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Substance Abuse Services.

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**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill provides that any mental health coverage provided under accident and sickness insurance policies and contracts with health maintenance organizations must include coverage of services for the treatment of substance abuse and chemical dependency, if required for treatment of a mental illness.

Effective Date: July 1, 2002.

Explanation of State Expenditures: State plans currently include substance abuse and chemical dependency services.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Local governments may experience a 0.2% to 5% increase in health-related expenditures.

Background: The Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., conducted a study for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration on the costs and effects of providing parity for mental health and substance abuse benefits. This study involved a case study of five states that have mental health substance abuse parity laws. States reviewed include: Minnesota, Maryland, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Texas.

Premium Increases Due to Parity - Case Studies:

Minnesota: 1% to 2% increase in premiums.

Maryland: 1% increase in premiums.

Rhode Island: Negligible premium increase.

New Hampshire: 5% or less increase in premium.

Texas: 1.5% of total claim costs.

In Indiana, costs associated with this requirement may not be as high as states in the study. This study reviewed the costs associated with implementing mental health and substance abuse parity. Indiana currently has a mental health parity requirement. Thus, the costs associated with implementing a substance abuse and chemical dependency requirement may be lower than those experienced in the study states due to the difference in services already covered.

In addition, costs may actually decrease if the state enacts a substance abuse and chemical dependency parity requirement. For example, Texas experienced a 47.9% decrease in costs attributable to mental health and substance abuse care from 1992 to 1995.

Premium Increases Due to Parity - Actuarial Studies

Actuarial studies provide in-depth information regarding rate increases for specific types of coverages. According to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration actuarial study data, costs for substance abuse parity increases premiums 0.2%. This number is significantly lower than the 1% to 5% range in the case study data.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: None.

Local Agencies Affected: All.

Information Sources: Keith Beesley, State Department of Personnel, (317) 232-3062.

“The Costs and Effects of Parity for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Insurance Benefits”, U.S.
Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Substance Abuse and Mental
Health Services Administration
<http://www.mentalhealth.org/publications/allpubs/Mc99-80/Prtyfnix.asp>